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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
8 January 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report as of 8:30 pm EST)

1. Regular Dominican military forces turned over control of Radio Santo Domingo and the government's telecommunications building to troops of the Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF) at about 2:00 pm. Minister of Defense Rivera agreed to the action after conferring with General Alvim of the IAPF. On the basis of a personal pledge from Provisional President Hector Garcia Godoy, Alvim was able to tell Rivera that the radio would not be used to press the government's case against the armed forces chiefs. So far, however, Radio Santo Domingo has not come on the air, possible because of damage to its transmitting facilities.

2. The possibility of a unified general strike by the left on 10 January appears to be somewhat diminished.

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State Dept. review completed

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4. Right wing politicians are seeking to mobilize some support for the position of the military leaders but have had only limited success. Several very small conservative groups, one of which was directly involved in anti-Garcia Godoy plotting prior to the abortive 22 November rightist uprising in Santiago, have indicated they back the military. Luis Amiama Tio, head of the moderately conservative Liberal Evolutionist Party, has refused to give his backing, saying he must first consult with his party's leadership. Amiama earlier expressed the view that the military chiefs must eventually obey the president.

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6. This afternoon's OAS Council meeting passed uneventfully. During the meeting Ambassador Bunker delivered a phone report, announcing the agreement of the military to evacuate Radio Santo Domingo. This seemed to head off, at least temporarily, possible demands that the OAS and IAPF take stronger measures to back Garcia Godoy.

7. Although the military's turnover of the radio has avoided an immediate confrontation with the IAPF, the basic situation remains unchanged. The military are adamant in their stand that Garcia Godoy withdraw his decree assigning top leaders overseas or resign. The situation is still tense and violence could break out with little warning.

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